



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC STAFF SEEKS \$3.8 MILLION REDUCTION IN PIPELINE CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

JEFFERSON CITY---The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission has filed a complaint alleging Missouri Pipeline Company (MPC) and Missouri Gas Company (MGC) rates are excessive and should be cut. Staff is seeking to reduce current rates by approximately \$3.8 million (35%) annually.

The rates for transporting natural gas by MPC and/or MGC are passed on to consumers of AmerenUE in the service areas of Wentzville, Rolla, Salem and Owensville; all of Laclede Gas Company customers; the municipal natural gas systems of St. Robert, Cuba, St. James and Waynesville; and Fort Leonard Wood.

The Staff complaint also addresses operational issues, alleging that affiliated companies have asserted control over MPC and MGC property and operations, and that these affiliates should therefore be under Commission jurisdiction. Staff is seeking Commission approval to go to court to seek monetary penalties for these alleged violations.

The Commission has affiliate transaction rules that are designed to protect utility ratepayers from paying for costs over and above the amount that would take place in an arms length transaction.

MPC and MGC will be given approximately 30 days to respond to the complaint.

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Case No. GC-2006-0378